

Pemba is Datoop's eldest son and is now twenty-seven,¹⁵⁹ his wife being four years younger. He had already started⁵⁸² his Lama's training when he was summoned to work in Gangtok. He remained at the palace for nearly ten years, when he left the Maharaja's service at his own request.⁴⁶⁷ Like his friend Chodu, he too was a scullion. When he²⁹⁷ was in Gangtok he learnt to wear boots and as a result still has very tender feet. His mother says that he was not weaned early; and perhaps because of this he was⁸⁶² a very nervous child. We often noticed that he flinched at any sudden noise, and even now he says he cannot bear the sight of blood. He used to cry a lot when he first left home, but after his return on leave he soon found that he wanted to go back to Gangtok again. His parents told me they were very anxious while he was away from home and always used to visit him once a year. He was sometimes⁸⁶¹ beaten as a child and would threaten to throw himself in the fire; but his parents would only laugh, and told him that if he really wished to die they would not prevent him. Although he still is rather nervous, and much more retiring than the average Lepcha, he does not appear to be in any way maladjusted. He is completely bilingual, speaking¹⁹¹ Nepali almost as well as his own language.

Pichi, aged twenty-three, is Datoop's second son. He has⁴⁶⁴ just returned from Gangtok, where he has spent the last⁴⁸³ eight years or so learning to be a carpenter. While he was still away from home his parents decided that it was time¹⁵⁹ for him to be betrothed; but he sent back word that he was⁵⁸⁴ too busy to leave his work. For this reason his brother, a boy of fifteen, acted as his proxy at the ceremony. When Pichi came home the following year he at once made it clear that he had no intention of proceeding with this prearranged marriage, and said that when he wished to marry he would choose a wife for himself. The Mandal, who made all the arrangements, was somewhat perplexed at this state of affairs, such a case never having arisen before. He now¹⁵⁹ thinks that in order not to cause offence the best thing is⁵⁸⁵ 588